

IN THE CLAIMS: Please amend Claims 14, 15, 24, 27 and 28 as shown below. Please cancel Claims 1-13, 16, 20-23 and 33-37. The status of all remaining claims is given for the convenience of the Examiner.

1-13: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.

14. (Currently amended) A method of removing As(III) and As(V) from arsenic-contaminated waters, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting the arsenic-contaminated waters with ~~the adsorbent of claim 3~~ a zeolite adsorbent coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide, wherein Mn ~~oxide (III)~~ in said adsorbent oxidizes As(III) to As(V), wherein oxidized and native As(V) is adsorbed by Fe oxide in said adsorbent for subsequent removal; and

(b) removing the oxidized and native As(V) from said waters.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the ~~Mn-oxide Mn(III)~~ in said adsorbent ~~comprises Mn(IV)~~ is substituting for Fe(III) in the nanophase coated oxide.

16. Canceled

17. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the adsorption is performed at the pH range from about 4 to about 9.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the resulting waters comprise less than 3ppb of As(III) and/or As(V).

19. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein said waters are ground waters or surface waters.

20-23: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.

24. (Currently amended) A method of removing arsenic having various valence states from arsenic-contaminated waters without a preoxidation state, comprising the steps of:

(a) in a single step, using a zeolite adsorbent coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide to oxidize ~~oxidizing the~~ arsenic having lower valence states to arsenic having higher valence states in said arsenic-contaminated waters; and

(b) removing the oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states from said waters by said adsorbent.

25. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said arsenic-contaminated waters comprise As(III) and As(V).

26. (Original) The method of claim 24, wherein said arsenic having lower valence states is oxidized by a Mn-containing oxide.

27. (Currently amended) ~~The method of claim 26~~ A method of removing arsenic having various valence states from arsenic contaminated waters, comprising the steps of:

(a) oxidizing the arsenic having lower valence states to arsenic having higher valence states in said arsenic-contaminated waters; and

(b) removing the oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states from said waters;

wherein said arsenic having lower valence states is oxidized by a Mn-containing oxide;

wherein said Mn-containing oxide is selected from the group consisting of birnessite, Si-birnessite, Mn-ferrihydrite and zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide.

28. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~24~~ 27, wherein said oxidized and native arsenic having higher valence states is adsorbed and removed by a Mn-containing Fe oxide.

29. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said Mn-containing Fe oxide is selected from the group consisting of birnessite, Si-birnessite, Si-ferrihydrite, Mn-ferrihydrite and natural zeolite coated with nanophase Mn-Fe oxide.

30. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the adsorption is performed at the pH range from about 4 to about 9.

31. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the resulting waters comprise less than 3 ppb of As(III) and As(V).

32. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein said waters are ground waters or surface waters.

33-37: Canceled as being drawn to non-elected invention.